

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A heat pipe assembly comprising:
 - a first heat pipe having a condenser, an interior, and a working fluid;
 - a reservoir that is external to and communicates with said first heat pipe containing a non-condensable gas which variably permits access of the working fluid to the condenser of the first heat pipe, depending on a pressure of the working fluid; and
 - a second heat pipe having a condenser and an evaporator that is in thermal contact with the first heat pipe, wherein the second heat pipe has an interior in fluid communication with the interior of the first heat pipe to permit vapor flow through a path extending from within the first heat pipe toward the condenser of the first heat pipe, into the second heat pipe, and within the second heat pipe toward the condenser of the second heat pipe, in at least one pressure of the working fluid.
2. (Original) The heat pipe assembly of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first heat pipe has a longitudinal direction;
 - the non-condensable gas has a moving front with a range of motion within the condenser of the first heat pipe;
 - when the moving front is at a first boundary of the range of motion, the working fluid does not access a portion of the condenser in which the evaporator of the second heat pipe is located; and when the moving front is at a second boundary of the range of motion, the working fluid accesses a portion of the condenser in which the evaporator of the second heat pipe is located.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The heat pipe assembly of claim 1, wherein: the first heat pipe has no heat sink or fins attached directly thereto.

5. (Original) The heat pipe assembly of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the evaporator of the second heat pipe is contained inside of the condenser of the first heat pipe.

6.-15. (Canceled)